(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the facilities at Jakhau keeping in view the national security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) The proposal to start coast guard station at Jakhau is envisaged in the current Coast Guard Development Plan. Presently, Coast Guard carries out surveillance in the area from Okha port (which is nearest Coast Guard station from Jakhau).

[Translation]

Purchase of Parachutes for Indian Army

1419. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :
SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a deal was reached with a foreign company for the purchase of parachutes for Indian Army and a few consignments thereof were also despatched by the company.

(b) if so, whether quality of the above parachutes were better than those of indigenously manufactured parachutes;

(c) if not, the reasons in detail for granting permission for above purchase without trial of the above said parachutes:

(d) whether the Government have cancelled the purchase order given to the said company; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (e). A contract was concluded with M/s GQ Parachutes, UK, for procurement of 1000 Nos. of low level man carrying parachutes, which have been supplied by the firm. Such parachutes were not manufactured in India at that time. The selection of the UK supplier was made after evaluating the parachutes of foreign firms and based on the lower price. Defects were noticed in the Parachutes during receipt inspection and action is being taken for repair/replacement as per the terms of the contract. Also the warranty Bonds given by the foreign firm have been encashed.

[English]

Recommendations made by Committee on Territorial Army

1420. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since taken any action on the recommendations of the Third Territorial Army Review Committee:

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) the reasons for delay in arriving at firm decisions for imparting a more effective role in matters of providing internal security and containing and curbing terrorism and other parochial forces, in the light of the said recommendations:

(d) whether all branches of Army, Naval and Air Force would also be upgraded as recommended by the Territorial Army Review Committee; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (e). The Report of the TA Review Committee headed by Shri K.P. Singh Deo which was submitted to the Government on 6th August, 1996 has been circulated to the various Departments of the Central Government and also to the different wings of Armed Forces for eliciting their views on the various recommendations. A final decision in the matter can be taken only after such examination is completed.

Engineering Colleges

1421. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of engineering colleges recognised by All India Council for Technical Education during the last five years:

(b) the details of colleges out of them inspected so far and found below standards alongwith details of that were found lacking; and

(c) the steps taken to upgrade the standard of these colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) During the last four years All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has approved 213 engineering colleges. Till 1992-93 the Council had approved 254 technical institutes both engineering and pharmacy degree level colleges.

(b) Two colleges, namely, Islamiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore and Shri Mahatma Basweshwar Society's College of Engineering, Latur were found to be below standard after inspection.

(c) The deficiencies noticed are communicated to the Institutes concerned by the Inspecting Team/Expert Committee of AICTE, which also guides them to overcome their shortcomings and helps them to remove deficiencies.